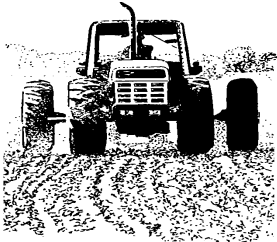




TENNESSEE WEEKLY
WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN



State Statistician: Debra K. Kenerson
P.O. Box 41505
Nashville, TN 37204-1505
1-800-626-0987

http://www.nass.usda.gov/tn

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COTTON HARVEST UNDERWAY

Harvest of the State’s cotton crop, projected at 535,000 acres, got underway on a limited basis last week. This is the latest start of cotton harvest since 1997. Defoliation picked up speed, but continues to lag behind last year and the 5-year average. Tennessee corn producers made excellent strides last week as warm, dry conditions allowed them to harvest an additional 22 percent of the State’s acreage. Farmers continue to report above average yields. Tobacco growers also took advantage of the last week’s favorable weather to continue harvest with progress running slightly behind a year ago and normal. Currently, 34 percent of the soybean crop was dropping leaves, while only 2 percent has been harvested. In addition to harvest activities, farmers were active seeding fall pastures and preparing fields for planting small grains. Temperatures averaged below normal in the West and near normal in the East, while rainfall averaged above normal in the West and below normal in the East. There were 7 days considered suitable for field work last week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 4 percent very short, 23 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, while subsoil moisture levels were rated 4 percent very short, 14 percent short, 81 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS: Through September 21, 2003					CONDITION: On September 19, 2003					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2002	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
Percent					Percent					
Corn - Mature	96	91	100	97	Cotton	0	3	18	61	18
Corn - Harvest	58	36	77	74	Soybeans	0	1	15	56	28
Corn Silage - Harvest	90	83	96	96	Pastures	1	5	20	59	15
Cotton - Bolls Opening	55	36	84	91						
Cotton - Defoliated	24	6	46	55						
Cotton - Harvested	2	0	8	14						
Soybeans - Dropping Leaves	34	22	43	42						
Soybeans - Harvested	2	N/A	5	5						
Tobacco - Burley Harvested	80	70	81	84						
Tobacco - Air Cured Harvested	88	82	89	91						
Tobacco - Fire Cured Harvested	76	66	86	86						

CORN: Although grain harvest progress continues to lag slightly behind the normal pace, producers made good headway last week as mild, dry weather allowed them to harvest over a fifth of the State’s acreage.

COTTON: Nearly a fourth of the cotton acreage had been defoliated by week’s end with 2 percent of the acreage harvested. The crop was rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition.

SOYBEANS: As of Sunday, almost a third of the soybean acreage was dropping leaves with harvest continuing in a few areas. Eighty-four percent of the crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition. There were a few reports of disease problems.

TOBACCO: Tobacco growers made excellent harvest progress last week. Harvest was progressing in line with last year and normal. The majority of the tobacco crop is already in the barn and stripping should begin in earnest by next week.

PASTURES & HAY: Last week’s weather proved favorable for many growers to continue harvesting hay. Pastures remain in mostly good condition, as farmers make preparations for fall seeding.

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION For week ending: 09/21/03 (with comparisons)										
LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F	
	Week Ending 09/21/03				Current Week	Rain	Current	From	Since April 1	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	09/21/03	Days	Since January 1	Normal	Total	DFN
/Ames_Plantation	89	50	68	-4	0.00	0	51.78	+13.63	2294	+29
Tri-City_RGNL_A	84	48	67	-1	1.30	1	52.70	+21.85	1590	+26
Brownsville_TN	89	54	70	-3	0.00	0	42.28	+4.18	2480	+467
Chattanooga/Lov	88	55	72	-1	0.38	1	51.10	+11.83	2274	+100
Clarksville_Sew	87	50	68	-2	2.95	2	39.02	+2.23	2180	+150
Cookeville	83	48	66	-3	0.42	1	50.61	+8.72	1751	+480
Covington	87	52	67	-5	0.00	0	41.29	+4.03	2179	-129
Crossville_AP	81	48	67	+1	0.04	1	50.60	+9.64	1583	+142
Dickson_AG	77	48	62	-9	0.03	1	42.79	+3.43	1628	-486
Dover_1W	84	50	66	-4	0.00	0	43.06	+4.84	1975	+168
Dyersburg	84	52	67	-5	0.00	0	37.04	+0.68	2312	-136
Erwin_1W	85	49	66	+0	0.28	2	42.22	+4.87	1510	-345
Huntingdon_Wate	85	50	66	-4	0.00	0	41.41	+2.90	2099	+175
Jackson_AG	89	49	67	-4	0.02	1	38.34	+0.49	2242	+28
Kingston_AG	84	51	69	+2	0.22	1	50.58	+7.64	1823	+148
Knoxville_AP	85	55	70	+1	0.37	1	46.47	+11.36	2049	+169
Lewisburg	88	43	68	-2	0.00	0	48.41	+8.59	1897	+7
Lexington_TN	84	49	67	-5	0.00	0	43.35	+6.51	2088	+725
Linden	85	46	67	-3	0.03	1	47.87	+7.52	1862	-41
Martin	87	48	66	-5	0.00	0	43.80	+5.46	2137	+19
Mc_Minnville_Tn	85	49	69	-2	0.09	1	46.56	+7.43	2018	-330
Memphis_AG	89	53	68	-6	0.01	1	43.56	+6.31	2399	-338
Milan	89	47	66	-5	0.00	0	41.10	+1.57	2136	+66
Murfreesboro_5N	85	49	69	-2	0.00	0	45.18	+6.05	2014	-328
Nashville_Metro	84	52	71	-1	0.01	1	46.48	+11.48	2207	-20
Newcomb	81	49	66	+1	0.04	1	51.91	+11.49	1616	+259
Oneida	81	49	66	+1	0.14	1	47.05	+6.63	1595	-406
Pikeville	87	48	70	-1	0.01	1	51.06	+11.84	1971	+132
Portland_TN	83	52	67	-3	0.00	0	45.49	+7.70	1878	+28
Pulaski_Water_P	87	49	69	-4	0.04	1	45.89	+5.88	2007	-208
Savannah_6SW	86	48	68	-4	0.00	0	54.17	+13.05	1994	+32
Sparta_TN	85	47	69	+2	0.02	1	53.12	+12.71	2002	+406
Springfield	83	50	67	-3	0.10	1	38.85	+2.56	1902	+51
Springhill	87	49	69	-1	0.00	0	47.90	+8.03	2098	+215
Union_City	87	47	65	-5	0.00	0	40.21	+2.87	1992	-60
Waynesboro_TN	84	46	67	-2	0.00	0	49.31	+7.45	1904	-223

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). GDD = Growing Degree Days.
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
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